

Sec. 93.113.d Criteria and procedures: Timely implementation of TCMs.

(d) For FHWA/FTA projects which are not from a conforming transportation plan and TIP, this criterion is satisfied if the project does not interfere with the implementation of any TCM in the applicable implementation plan.

Sec. 93.123 Procedures for determining localized CO and PM₁₀ concentrations (HOT-SPOT ANALYSIS).

CO hot-spot analysis.

(1) The demonstrations required by Sec. 93.116 ("Localized CO and PM₁₀ violations") must be based on quantitative analysis using the applicable air quality models, data bases, and other requirements specified in 40 CFR part 51, Appendix W (Guideline on Air Quality Models). These procedures shall be used in the following cases, unless different procedures developed through the interagency consultation process required in Sec. 93.105 and approved by the EPA Regional Administrator are used:

(i) For projects in or affecting locations, areas, or categories of sites which are identified in the applicable implementation plan as sites of violation or possible violation;

(ii) For projects affecting intersections that are at Level-of-Service D, E, or F, or those that will change to Level-of-Service D, E, or F because of increased traffic volumes related to the project;

(iii) For any project affecting one or more of the top three intersections in the nonattainment or maintenance area with highest traffic volumes, as identified in the applicable implementation plan; and

(iv) For any project affecting one or more of the top three intersections in the nonattainment or maintenance area with the worst level of service, as identified in the applicable implementation plan.

(2) In cases other than those described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section, the demonstrations required by Sec. 93.116 may be based on either:

(i) Quantitative methods that represent reasonable and common professional practice; or

(ii) A qualitative consideration of local factors, if this can provide a clear demonstration that the requirements of Sec. 93.116 are met.

PM₁₀ hot-spot analysis

(1) The hot-spot demonstration required by Sec. 93.116 must be based on quantitative analysis methods for the following types of projects:

(i) Projects which are located at sites at which violations have been verified by monitoring;

(ii) Projects which are located at sites which have vehicle and roadway emission and dispersion characteristics that are essentially identical to those of sites with verified violations (including sites near one at which a violation has been monitored); and

(iii) New or expanded bus and rail terminals and transfer points which increase the number of diesel vehicles congregating at a single location.

(2) Where quantitative analysis methods are not required, the demonstration required by Sec. 93.116 may be based on a qualitative consideration of local factors.

(3) The identification of the sites described in paragraph (b)(1) (i) and (ii) of this section, and other cases where quantitative methods are appropriate, shall be determined through the interagency consultation process required in Sec. 93.105. DOT may choose to make a categorical conformity determination on bus and rail terminals or transfer points based on appropriate modeling of various terminal sizes, configurations, and activity levels.

(4) The requirements for quantitative analysis contained in this paragraph (b) will not take effect until EPA releases modeling guidance on this subject and announces in the Federal Register that these requirements are in effect.

General requirements.

(1) Estimated pollutant concentrations must be based on the total emissions burden which may result from the implementation of the project, summed together with future background concentrations. The total concentration must be estimated and analyzed at appropriate receptor locations in the area substantially affected by the project.

(2) Hot-spot analyses must include the entire project, and may be performed only after the major design features which will significantly impact concentrations have been identified. The future background concentration should be estimated by multiplying current background by the ratio of future to current traffic and the ratio of future to current emission factors.

(3) Hot-spot analysis assumptions must be consistent with those in the regional emissions analysis for those inputs which are required for both analyses.

(4) PM₁₀ or CO mitigation or control measures shall be assumed in the hot-spot analysis only where there are written commitments from the project sponsor and/or operator to implement such measures, as required by Sec. 93.125(a).

(5) CO and PM₁₀ hot-spot analyses are not required to consider construction-related activities which cause temporary increases in emissions. Each site which is affected by construction-related activities shall be considered separately, using established "Guideline" methods. Temporary increases are defined as those which occur only during the construction phase and last five years or less at any individual site.

Sec. 93.126 Exempt Projects.

Notwithstanding the other requirements of this subpart, highway and transit projects of the types listed in Table 2 of this section are exempt from the requirement to determine conformity. Such projects may proceed toward implementation even in the absence of a conforming transportation plan and TIP. A particular action of the type listed in Table 2 of this section is not exempt if the MPO in consultation with other agencies (see Sec. 93.105(c)(1)(iii)), the EPA, and the FHWA (in the case of a highway project) or the FTA (in the case of a transit project) concur that it has potentially adverse emissions impacts for any reason. States and MPOs must ensure that exempt projects do not interfere with TCM implementation. Table 2 follows:

Table 2--Exempt Projects

Safety

- Railroad/highway crossing.
- Hazard elimination program.
- Safer non-Federal-aid system roads.
- Shoulder improvements.
- Increasing sight distance.
- Safety improvement program.
- Traffic control devices and operating assistance other than
- signalization projects.
- Railroad/highway crossing warning devices.

- Guardrails, median barriers, crash cushions.
- Pavement resurfacing and/or rehabilitation.
- Pavement marking demonstration.
- Emergency relief (23 U.S.C. 125).
- Fencing.
- Skid treatments.
- Safety roadside rest areas.
- Adding medians.
- Truck climbing lanes outside the urbanized area.
- Lighting improvements.
- Widening narrow pavements or reconstructing bridges (no additional travel lanes).
- Emergency truck pullovers.

Mass Transit

- Operating assistance to transit agencies.
- Purchase of support vehicles.
- Rehabilitation of transit vehicles \1\.
- Purchase of office, shop, and operating equipment for existing facilities.
- Purchase of operating equipment for vehicles (e.g., radios, fareboxes, lifts, etc.).
- Construction or renovation of power, signal, and communications systems
- Construction of small passenger shelters and information kiosks.
- Reconstruction or renovation of transit buildings and structures (e.g., rail or bus buildings, storage and maintenance facilities, stations, terminals, and ancillary structures).
- Rehabilitation or reconstruction of track structures, track, and trackbed in existing rights-of-way.
- Purchase of new buses and rail cars to replace existing vehicles or for minor expansions of the fleet \1\.
- Construction of new bus or rail storage/maintenance facilities categorically excluded in 23 CFR part 771.

Air Quality

Continuation of ride-sharing and van-pooling promotion activities at current levels.

Bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Other

Specific activities which do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as:

Planning and technical studies.

Grants for training and research programs.

Planning activities conducted pursuant to titles 23 and 49 U.S.C.

Federal-aid systems revisions.

Engineering to assess social, economic, and environmental effects of the proposed action or alternatives to that action.

Noise attenuation.

Emergency or hardship advance land acquisitions (23 CFR 712.204(d)).

Acquisition of scenic easements.

Plantings, landscaping, etc.

Sign removal.

Directional and informational signs.

Transportation enhancement activities (except rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities).

Repair of damage caused by natural disasters, civil unrest, or terrorist acts, except projects involving substantial functional, locational or capacity changes.

Note: In PM₁₀ nonattainment or maintenance areas, such projects are exempt only if they are in compliance with control measures in the applicable implementation plan.

Sec. 93.127 Projects exempt from REGIONAL EMISSIONS analyses.

Notwithstanding the other requirements of this subpart, highway and transit projects of the types listed in Table 3 of this section are exempt from regional emissions analysis requirements. The local effects of these projects with respect to CO or PM₁₀ concentrations must be considered to determine if a hot-spot analysis is required prior to making a project-level conformity determination. These projects may then proceed to the project development process even in the absence of a conforming transportation plan and TIP. A particular action of the type listed in Table 3 of this section is not exempt from regional emissions analysis if the MPO in consultation with other agencies (see Sec. 93.105(c)(1)(iii)), the EPA, and the FHWA (in the case of a highway project) or the FTA (in the case of a transit project) concur that it has potential regional impacts for any reason. Table 3 follows:

Table 3--Projects Exempt From Regional Emissions Analyses

- Intersection channelization projects.
- Intersection signalization projects at individual intersections.
- Interchange reconfiguration projects.
- Changes in vertical and horizontal alignment.
- Truck size and weight inspection stations.
- Bus terminals and transfer points.

Sec. 93.128 Traffic signal synchronization projects.

Traffic signal synchronization projects may be approved, funded, and implemented without satisfying the requirements of this subpart. However, all subsequent regional emissions analyses required by Secs. 93.118 and 93.119 for transportation plans, TIPs, or projects not from a conforming plan and TIP must include such regionally significant traffic signal synchronization projects.